

Bridport (West Bay) Harbour Consultative Group (BHCG)
Meeting 27 March 2023, The Salt House 18:00

Present

Aubrey Banfield	Commercial Fisherman Rep
Sarah Bennett	Harbour Traders Rep
David Boyland	Non-Commercial Moorings Sub
Jane Hallett	Non-Boating Water Activities Sub
Benjamin Harvey	Assistant Harbour Master
Jason Mathews	Gig Club Sub
Becky McGowan	Harbour Admin Officer, Note Taker
Simon Miles	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Rep & (Group Chair)
James Radcliffe	Harbour Master
Cllr Mark Roberts	Dorset Council Harbours Committee Chair
Cllr Sarah Williams	Town Council
Debbs Urch	Gig Club Sub

1. Welcome & introductions	Action
SM – Welcomed everyone to the meeting, individual introductions were given.	
2. Apologies	
Daryl Chambers – Town Council Rep Ken Buchan - Head of Environment & Wellbeing Mark Conwell – Commercial Fisherman Rep Gavin Brookings – Non-Commercial Moorings Rep	
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
No comments raised.	
4. Harbours Committee Chairs Update	
Ed Carter the new Weymouth Harbour Master is in post, formerly senior Assistant Harbour Master in Chichester. He has visited with Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours and seems to be settling in well. Karen Womack is the new Assistant Harbour Master in Weymouth, her previous post as Berthing Officer will be advertised. A new community interest company CIC, has recently been formed, supported by funding through the UK Fisheries and Seafood Scheme from Marine Management Organisation. The MMO supports this development. MR – Had attended the boat folk marina Christmas lights event and thought this could be something to consider. Under the change in governance and functions, Harbour Management becomes an executive function of Dorset Council, with the Portfolio Holder undertaking the responsibility of duty holder, and the existing Harbours Committee becoming an advisory committee making recommendations to the Executive. Whilst still benefiting from the advice and expertise provided by the Harbours Committee, this change will streamline and accelerate the decision-making process, and enable closer working and collaboration across other council services. It will remove harbours business from Full Council meetings where there is insufficient time to scrutinise and question recommendations. Instead, harbours business will be publicised in the Cabinet forward plan, ensuring visibility for both the Place and Resources Overview Committee and the Scrutiny Committee.	
5. Harbour Masters Update	
JR – Presented the HM report. Everyone on the mooring waiting lists have received mooring offers, we have moorings available in the Harbour still, so we have placed advertisement on social media. SM – Asked how many moorings are there available? JR – Around 10 to 14 private moorings, there are some commercial moorings available, but we are waiting confirmation and will discuss once confirmed. SM – Asked if there are restrictions on moorings.	

JR – Yes there is the local definition, to be residing within 10-mile radius of the Harbour or pay Dorset Council, Council Tax.

Ben Renshaw, our Harbour mechanic will go onto a 0-hour contract at the end of April, we will then advertise this post after job evaluation.

We now have a full time Harbour Assistant, Harry Cornwell and 4 seasonals which make up a full Harbour team.

Bridport Harbour is not subsidised by Dorset Council, the HRO income helps us to be self-sufficient.

Lyme Regis Harbour is still subsidised currently by £62000.

MR – Added the HRO will allow new general directions that replace old Bylaws for example pilotage that hasn't been used.

The Bridport harbour Act is dated 1921.

SM – Asked how the dredging works are going?

JR – The team are going home now due to the weather, they will return on Monday with 2 teams to catch up, hopefully the pontoons will be in before Easter.

JM – Asked if they create noise and does this become a problem?

JR – No.

It was asked if there have been any complaints regarding rubbish from the pipes?

JR – No complaints however there have been lots of advertisement for the public to find out and understand what is happening. There are placed banners, QR codes and information on websites.

There are sewage concerns raised with Southwest waters in Lyme Regis, the sediment has been tested direct from the pipe and the results were good.

MR – Added the dredged material does look dark and murky however it does turn back to normal colour quite quickly.

SM – Asked if there were cost saving from the dredging licence, is this a set fee?

JR – This has saved a lot of time as we don't need to put in applications, we can just book, a deal has been made, the licence is set for a 10-year period.

SB – Asked how long the metal fencing will be placed around the kiosks and toilets? Will the toilets be open?

JR – The quay wall will be closed for the rest of the summer; this includes the toilets. The area is being monitored by the engineers and some investigation works have been done, more cracks have appeared since the latest works.

SW – Added Mark Foxwell and Trevor Ford are dealing with the temporary toilets on Fisherman's Green, BTC have given permission for this.

SB – Asked if this will cause disruption to the use of the green.

SW - This shouldn't cause any disruption to the green.

JR – Will be meeting the new designated person this week, auditing will take place over 3-year periods, firstly in Bridport, then Weymouth and Lyme Regis.

SM – Asked what they will check?

JR – Responded, risk assessments, operational procedures, incident reporting ect It is checked we are operating in line with the Port marine safety Code.

MR – Mentioned the OK's event in Lyme Regis have over 110 entries and the National Squid Champions will be going ahead.

6. User Representative Report

Gig Club – Report received.

Our main concern is looking at ways to make the launching and retrieving of gigs easier and safer. The gigs are long, heavy and the slipways often very slippery, especially at very low tides. Any ideas would be most welcome.

JR – We have a new solution to trial on the slipway, this should be arriving shortly. Products used must now be eco friendly which doesn't do the job as well.

Products previously used cannot be used now.

<p>DU – Mentioned they would offer their help but there's no insurance and a risk to Health and Safety. SM – Asked if there was a type of coating that could be used? JR – We did this in Lyme Regis, but algae still grows. SM – Provided an option of copper coat. DU – Mentioned other Harbours and how they work, trying to look at other solutions, one Harbour uses a winch or cradle, JR – We do have one of these on the slipway under a cover. This could be utilised. AB – Suggested truggs, DU noted this to investigate.</p>	
<p>DU – Asked if JR would consider a mooring for the gig boat? JR – Responded, we would need to find a suitable space, there are some concerns with the river swirls and if the gig could withstand it. The gig would also need lots of cleaning.</p>	JR
<p>Town Council – Report received.</p>	
<p>SW – Added the wheelchair for west beach is arriving which is good news.</p>	
<p>West Bay Toilet works will start next week, the toilets will remain open as usual, contract managed by Daryl Chambers</p>	
<p>Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels - Report received.</p>	
<p>Nothing to add to the report.</p>	
<p>Harbour Traders – Report received.</p>	
<p>Covered step, JR - Responded we will be taking top bit off step to make it flat. SB – Added the beach replenishment, often the sand gets blown over the step and it can't be seen. JR – Responded the sand that often covers the step is regularly pushed back.</p>	JR
<p>Heras fencing, MR - Responded, these must be tall fencing for public safety. SB – Asked, can we add a picture to make it look prettier? JR – Responded will investigate that, will raise with engineers. SB – Asked if there will be a reduction for traders effected? JR – This will need to be raised by them through property services.</p>	JR
<p>Orange bollards, JR - Responded, they are back out on the road and have been tidied up, they will eventually be made permanent. Will liaise with property services to monitor the movement of these. SB – Asked why there are delays? JR – Is unsure, the project wasn't ready to go ahead yet. SB – Asked if there could be trough style planters there instead? JR – Responded, will discuss with highways. MR – Will discuss withing the Ozone parking in their next meeting.</p>	JR MR
<p>Seating areas on the green or East pier? SW – Will raise with Daryl Chambers. SB – Asked if we could place more planters? JR – We will place the boat planters this summer. We are also trying to build up a reserves pot which can be used for future jobs like this.</p>	SW
<p>Shed, black hut, JR - Responded, this will be painted soon, already on the list to complete, we have been waiting for dryer weather.</p>	JR

<p>Sunken item on East beach? JR - Asked if there had been any reports recently? We haven't received any reports of sightings. BH went out in the summer to see the item but didn't catch it. JR – Divers were bringing over a marine photographer, but we are needing better weather. SM – Mark Cornwell suggested he could drag it out. JR - Will speak with Wessex Waters during their works, to see if they can investigate it. They are currently waiting for material so unsure of when they will begin their works.</p>	<p>JR</p>
<p>Everyone is pleased dredging is earlier this year.</p> <p>Bins, JR - To raise with waste services. SM – Can we have more bins or prominent recycle centre. SW - Will Discuss with Bridport depot. MR – Will raise as a separate issue within management monthly meeting.</p>	<p>JR SW MR</p>
<p>Net bins, JR – There Was a recycle bin on the pier, SB – Asked if this can it be replaced? JR – Will investigate.</p>	<p>JR</p>
<p>Commercial Fisherman</p>	
<p>AB - Davit cranes, JR – Is looking to see what options there are, Weymouth Harbour maintain one and are looking to see what they can do. There is an issue with the power supply and motors are replaced.</p>	<p>JR</p>
<p>A request was made for a light at east pier. JR – Will look into it.</p>	<p>JR</p>
<p>Block on the pull offs, ropes are breaking is there an alternative? JR – Responded, we will investigate.</p>	<p>JR</p>
<p>AB – Asked if a water supply to the chiller could be fitted? JR – Responded, we will look into this as we are sure there is ducting there already.</p>	<p>JR</p>
<p>Non-commercial Moorings</p>	
<p>There has been no contact from recreational users. This has been ongoing since the Consultative group was formed. JR - Fed back that the proposed opt out question to mooring holders on renewal was discussed with Weymouth Harbour, this had too many implications due to GDPR and time-consuming effort to maintain the contact list, it was decided not to use this approach.</p>	
<p>DB – Asked if he could send an email that can be forwarded onto the mooring holders. BM – Agreed AB – Suggested putting contact information outside the office. JR – Agreed and added that all contact information is on our Harbour website and is also circulated to all mooring holders in our end of and start of season report. BH – Suggested a meet your representative day, perhaps in September prior to the next consultative group meeting. DB – Agreed and is happy to do this. DB – Asked if we could promote contact to slipway users also.</p>	<p>DB BM</p>
<p>JR – A new Harbour user feedback form is available on the Harbour website.</p>	
<p>SW – Asked if website analytics had been set up?</p>	

<p>JR – Responded, yes but we have no figure to present yet.</p> <p>SM – In the Harbours Committee meeting, a question was raised regarding open to public meetings, could we hold one at the end of each year? JR – Discussed Lyme Regis’s ideas of holding a public meeting in exceptional circumstances for things like change of representative for example. AB – Emphasised the CIC recently created are there to support the marine industry. one off meeting. MR – Felt it is probably best to add a meeting rather than opening one of the consultative group meetings.</p> <p>MR – Mentioned we only receive net income from car parks, but the management and running of the car parks a dealt with by car park services.</p> <p>JM - How does it work with fishing boats taking up permanent residence, JR – Responded, we are looking at moving them and they are charged.</p> <p>Non-Boating Water Activities</p> <p>Could we have bike stands on the east pier? JR - Will speak with property services to enquire. JH – Asked of there could possibly be some fund raising to cover the costs. JR – Responded, come to us with a proposal and we can discuss this. MR – Asked how many racks? SB – Answered, small amount around 4.</p> <p>Commercial passenger tripping</p> <p>SM - Silt build up in East basin, is it possible dredgers can get in? JR – Has suggested this to the dredgers, unfortunately they don’t have enough pipes to do this, but we will seek other options.</p> <p>A concern was raised regarding gigs being left by the commercial part of the pontoons; can they be rafted? DU – Acknowledged this and agreed. SM – It was advised to use fenders. DU – Responded that the gigs always have fenders.</p> <p>It was asked if we can restrict commercial pontoons? JR – Responded, when there becomes an increase in vessels using the harbour, we will do this.</p> <p>Is it possible to have board advertising on the gable end of toilet block in main car park? JR – Mark Foxwell is the person to speak with regarding this. mark.foxwell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>JR</p> <p>JR</p>
<p>7. PWC's</p>	
<p>SM – Asked if Dorset Council are in favour of PWC's? The RYA school are cleared to instruct but permission is not yet granted. Questions have been asked if teaching can go ahead or launching permitted. Options to permit launching or restrict to tuition could help the school. Tuition through the school could be a gentle way of introducing them back into the Harbour.</p> <p>JR – Gave an overview of Lyme Regis’s discussion and suggested Bridport could use the same options. The Power Boat Club in Lyme Regis is to make a proposal to JR to bring to Committee, this will then be looked at by the members and passed onto the portfolio holders for approval. It was encouraged that all members provide feedback to JR with constructive feedback to go with the proposal to committee. JR – Suggested SM contact Lee Roper and work together on a proposal. SM – Asked if it is a good idea to propose from an instructional position first?</p>	<p>SM LR</p>

<p>JR – The power boat club are proposing a trial through the club only, to ensure they are licenced and competent users.</p> <p>A discussion was held amongst the members.</p> <p>SB – Suggested a clear zone be made for traveling in and out, perhaps using buoys.</p> <p>JR – Responded the Buoys don't work as they move too much with the tide.</p> <p>JR – Explained the Lyme Regis safety online set up on the Harbour website, this is to be introduced to Bridport.</p> <p>The safety guide is designed to provide water safety information to different Harbour users. This is advertised through stickers and QR codes around the Harbour. This could be set up for this season if a subgroup was formed to provide safety page information.</p> <p>SM and DB are happy to do this.</p>	<p>SM DB</p>
8. Q&A's	
9. Any Other Business	
Substitute of Non-Boating Water Activities confirmed, Jane Hallett	
Meeting Concluded 20:26	